

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 stand in the application, and all have been rejected over prior art.

In one embodiment, the present invention is a method of encoding a document by first identifying multiple characteristics about text of the document. Once the characteristics of the text are identified, a key for correlating the multiple characteristics with multiple unique indicia is created, preferably using colors or a gray scale. The unique indicia are then placed adjacent to at least some lines of text in the document. The unique indicia placed adjacent to each line of text correspond to the characteristic or characteristics in the line of text on the basis of the key. Each line of text may have multiple indicia corresponding to multiple characteristics in the same line. This can be seen in Appendix A from the provisional applications. (A copy of Appendix A is enclosed.)

The rejections are various combinations of three references: Graham, Schilit and Hernandez. Specifically, all claims, except 12 and 16, have been rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Graham in combination with Schilit. Claims 12 and 16 have been rejected as unpatentable on the basis of the same combination of Graham and Schilit, and further in view of Hernandez. Below is a synopsis of what the references teach.

U.S. Application Publication No. 2002/0067380 to Graham discloses a graphical user interface that presents document organization in terms of objects readily familiar to the user. The user selects a concept of interest and images that correspond to actual

documents (that contain such content of interest) are highlighted using colors, italics, fonts, audio or pop-up windows.

U.S. Patent No. 6,658,623 Schilit et al. discloses a system for providing hyperlinks to documents. When a user is reading a document and there is an underlined area, the reader can click a link icon in the margin next to the underlined portion of the document to be linked to another (different) document relating to that specific concept. The link icon itself conveys nothing about the underlined text.

U.S. Patent No. 4,723,209 to Hernandez et al. discloses a document editing system in which there are symbols in the left margin of a document that indicate that there are certain types of information formats within that portion of a document, for instance; H for heading, L for line, G for graphic and T for table.

The Claimed Invention:

A Method for Encoding a Document Where Multiple Indicia Are Placed in the Margin to Indicate Multiple Characteristics For The Same Line of Text

Claim 1, as amended, is a method for encoding a document with indicia. There is a key showing what characteristic each indicia represents. The indicia are placed in the margin next to the text to indicate the characteristics of the text next to it. Multiple indicia are used to indicate multiple characteristics for at least one line of text.

The official action indicates that the concept of highlighting in Graham could be combined with the “indicator” in the margin of an electronic document from Schilit and the symbols in the left margin taught by Hernandez to result in the present invention. As explained below, these references do not render the claims, as amended, obvious.

Graham Highlights Relevant Documents; Not Text Within A Document

Indicia in the claimed invention are used to indicate multiple subject lines of text of a document. Graham teaches a method for highlighting relevant documents in a collection (“closet”) of documents. The purpose is to gain access acting as an index to documents. The relevancy of the documents is dependent on the categories the user selects. There is no indication in Graham that the text of those documents are highlighted based on their content. Moreover, there is no more than one symbol per line of text.

Fig. 4 below shows Graham's index screen:

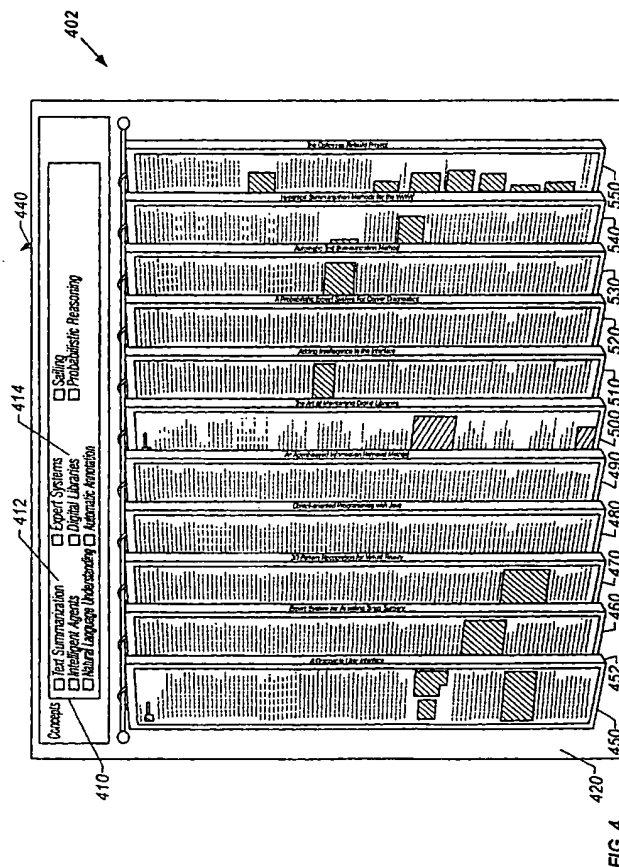


Fig. 4 shows columns of document images 450, 452, et seq; explained in ¶0039 (emphasis added):

Document closet [database index] 402 includes a viewable document closet area 420 [the screen] having one or more document images, such as document images 450-550, each having a representation of the content of an associated document. Each document image can include a text title field on the edge of the document image visible to the user. For example, document image 450, includes text field 452 having a title “A Graspable User Interface.” Some embodiments can have a concept indicator bar 410 that includes a plurality of concept indicators, such as concept indicator 412, that corresponds to concept “text summarization” and concept indicator 414 that corresponds to concept [FIG. 4] “digital libraries.” In these embodiments, selecting one or more particular concept indicators causes document images corresponding to documents with content relevant to the elected concept indicator to be displayed.

At ¶s 0042-44, there are disclosures of use of the following:

- (i) coloring a document image (e.g., 490, 500) and coloring associated concept indicators, but all are one color, and concept indicators are not in the side margin adjacent a line of text;
- (ii) rotating a selected document image to face a user and there is a title bar 404 to display a title of the document (Fig. 6); and
- (iii) providing a sliding window 503 and a pop-up window 504 (Fig. 7).

Graham Indexes Documents

Graham's system is a way of indexing documents to link to further documents. The “indicia” correspond to an identifier for a different document.

Using a system such as in Graham for a document repository to index and thereby obtain the indexed documents is a much different concept from the claimed invention, where symbols are placed in a margin adjacent lines of text of one document, to let the reader know at a glance information about the associated line or lines of text.

Schilit Merely Provides Hyperlinks

Schilit discloses hyperlink icons in a document. A hyperlink icon is not an indicator of information about the adjacent text. It is a link to further information.

A combination of Graham and Schilit lacks multiple indicators in the margin adjacent a line of text, and also lacks conveying information about the text in a margin adjacent the line of text.

Hernandez fails to associate multiple indicators with a single line of text. There is no suggestion that such symbols or links could be used in connection with indicating information about a line of text, or that there can be multiple symbols adjacent a line of text.

Schilit Merely Provides Hyperlinks to Documents With Further Information On a Topic Disclosed in the Text

The action appears to view the icons in the margin of Schilit as indicators providing a meaning for the highlighted or underlined text. However, the icons simply represent documents that are related to the highlighted or underlined text. The icons are hyperlinks to that document. The Schilit et al patent is entitled: "Displaying In A First Document A Selectable Link To A Second Document Based On A Passive Query." See

also, Col. 4, lines 28-36 (“the target documents may be displayed by clicking on selectable links in the displayed document 16.”) The icon itself provides no indication or information about the text. The icon is of no use to the reader while reading the text and in fact if “clicked on” takes the reader away from the text, i.e., to another document.

**Hernandez Uses Text Phrases to Explain Symbols Rather
Than Symbols to Explain Text**

Hernandez is cited for the use of different symbols in the margin to indicate content of the document. Hernandez uses marginal text to explain or indicate symbols or diagrams in the main part of a document. This is opposite from the claimed invention and teaches away from the claimed invention. The claimed invention uses indicia to indicate the content of the text. The point of the claimed invention is that the indicia in the margin are not text, and thus do not cause the reader to leave the main text. Moreover, in Hernandez, there is no more than one symbol per line of text.

In summary, Schilit, Hernandez and Graham fail to teach the use of overlapping multiple symbols in the margin for one line of text. One cannot combine references that all fail to teach more than one indicia per line of text, and come up with an obviousness rejection teaching two indicia or more per line of text. Therefore, the recitation of claim 1 of multiple indicia per line of text is not shown and not obvious from any of the cited art, alone or in combination.

Moreover, Graham only highlights relevant documents for a document repository. Schilit provides mere hyperlinks. Hernandez merely uses text phrases to explain symbols or graphs. None teach using multiple unique symbols in the margin to indicate a

characteristic of associated text.

Claims 11, 12 and 16

Claims 11, 12 and 16 recite that at least some lines of text have at least two unique indicia located in the margin adjacent thereto. There is such disclosure in any of the cited references. The references do not suggest multiple indicia adjacent the line of text because Graham and Schilit provide an index or link to other documents, and Hernandez uses text phrases to explain symbols.

Claims 4, 10 and 15

Claims 4, 10 and 15 recite an arrangement as shown in Appendix A, which provides as follows:

- (i) color-coded segments (as the unique indicia);
- (ii) in the margin adjacent and in line with lines of text; and
- (iii) there are adjacent lines of text having the same color-coded segment in a columnar, contiguous relationship and perpendicular to the lines of text. This arrangement is simply not shown or suggested by the cited references.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the application and allowance of all of the claims are respectfully requested. If any issues remain which can be resolved by a supplemental response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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■ = CONFLICT
■ = NEW SCENE
■ = CLIMAX
■ = NARRATION
■ = DENOUMENT

OCEAN EMPIRE

by

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Summary: Ocean Empire is the story of a group of scientists and physicists who secretly come up with the discovery of cold fusion. They quietly sell the electricity they generate to third world countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Once they generate sufficient working capital, they begin to build their "cities in the sea." These cities in the sea are located throughout the Pacific Ocean, and they are built upon frameworks that are anchored upon sea mounts, under the guise that they will provide the platforms for deep-sea oil exploration. (These sea mounts lie in just three hundred feet of water, and they provide the ideal foundation to the frameworks that support the cities in the sea). Once the cities are in place and functioning, the truth of a new geopolitical entity is revealed to the world: the Empire of the Ocean, or, as the scientists and physicists who created it call it, the EO. With the inexpensive and unlimited electrical power at the disposal of the EO, and the potential to change the geopolitical and economic structure of the planet, the United Nations (with the full backing of the most powerful country in the history of the planet, the United States of America) decides to take military action in order to prevent the EO from eventually controlling the planet. Before any military action can begin, though, the EO launches a preemptive strike on the nations of the world by shutting off all the electrical power it had been quietly supplying to the majority of the energy-hungry planet for many decades. Paralyzed and unable to function, the rest of the planet, including the powerful United States of America, is forced to accept the reality of the existence of the EO and the EO's plans for the restructuring of the planet. This is the story of the creation of the EO and its victory over the greedy, wasteful, polluting, warring, and inefficient nations of the earth. This is the story of the transformation and salvation of the planet Earth.